NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS

HEDGEROW PLANTING

1. Scope

The work shall consist of establishing dense, woody vegetation in a linear design and performing the necessary maintenance to ensure this practice functions as designed. This specification (including references made within to other Conservation Practice Standards and Technical Notes), and the Kansas Tree/Shrub Planting Field Sheet (Form KS-ECS-5) shall be used to design the practice. Practice application will be documented on the Tree/Shrub Planting Field Sheet (Form KS-ECS-5) and in the conservation plan.

2. Species Selection

To determine which trees will grow satisfactorily on which soils and to determine the expected heights after 20 years, refer to Kansas Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Section II, Windbreak Interpretations. Selected species should meet intended purpose of the planting.

3. Planting Details

Specific planting requirements for site preparation, proper stock handling techniques, establishment methods, and required survival percentages are provided in Kansas Forestry Technical Note KS-9.

4. Hedgerow Design Purpose

Living fences. Plant only those species of trees or shrubs that will provide a dense barrier impenetrable by livestock such as eastern redcedar, Russian mulberry, osage-orange, autumn olive, or American plum. Normally living fences will consist of a single row. Within-row spacing should be between 3 and 6 feet.

Wildlife habitat enhancement. Species shall be selected whose growth form will provide good travel lanes and food and cover for identified wildlife species. The planting shall contain as a minimum 2 different plant species. These hedgerows may be single or multiple row plantings and shall have a width of at least 15 feet at maturity. Multiple row plantings are preferred. See Conservation Practice Standard 380, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment, for spacing recommendations.

Screen/noise barrier. Selected plants shall attain a height and fullness sufficient to break the line of sight or baffle sound and dust. See Conservation Practice Standard 380, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment, for design information.

Locate noise barriers as close to the source of noise as possible. Combinations of shrubs and/or trees can create more effective screens than single species plantings. Evergreens provide foliage that can maintain a screen's year-round effectiveness.

5. Maintenance

Maintenance requirements are provided in Kansas Forestry Technical Note KS-9.